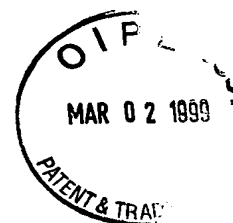


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In re Continuing Application pursuant to Rule 62 of

Appn. Number: 08/580,493

Appn. Filed: 1995 Dec 29

Applicant: Philippe BERNA

Appn. Title: PROCESS FOR MAKING A VERSATILE CLAMPING DEVICE DESIGNED TO
HOLD OBJECTS WITHOUT DAMAGING THEM, SUCH A DEVICE AND ITS USE

Examiner/GAU: Tom Hughes/3206

Molières-sur-Cèze, France, 1998, December 30, Wen

FULL SET OF PENDING CLAIMS

--1. (Seven times amended) The method of making a device for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging them comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a cylindrical support part,
- b) placing on said support part two arms of which at least one is movable along said support part,
- c) securing to one of said two arms at a distance from said support part one substantially elastic buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

--2. (Seven times amended) A device for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging them, comprising:

- a cylindrical support part,
- two arms of which [one] at least one is movable along said support part,
- and one substantially elastic buffer secured to one of said two arms at a distance from said support part, said buffer having under its contact face, which is at a right angle to said support part, a thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

--3. (Five times amended) The device of claim 2 in which said substantially elastic buffer comprises a ring which is covering part of said arm to which it is secured.

--4. (Five times amended) A device according to claim 2 wherein to said two arms are added two other movable arms so that they could overlap each other, every of said movable arms being furthermore turnable around said support part into at least two directions and each of all of said arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part so that the buffers of the two first arms of said four ones along said support part could have their contact faces facing the contact faces of the buffers of the two other said arms.

--5. (Five times amended) A device according to claim 4, wherein to said four arms is added one pair of successive movable arms along said support

part so that said device could be used as a vertical helping hand, each of these arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part so that the buffer of each of said successive movable arms could have its contact face facing the contact face of the buffer of the other successive arm.

--6. (Five times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein to said two arms are added successively two pairs of movable arms along said support part so that said device could be used as a horizontal helping hand, those pairs of movable arms being furthermore turnable around said support part into at least two directions, and each of said arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part so that the buffer of any arm for each of said two pairs could have its contact face facing the contact face of the buffer of the other arm of same pair.

--7. (Three times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein at least one end of said support part is fitted out with a removable stop such as a clip, a rider, a pin, a key or a section of cylindrical supple sheath slipped on said support part by a gentle forcing so as to turn of said two arms those which are movable into removable arms.

--8. (Three times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part in at least one direction distinct from that of the first said support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm provided with a said at least one substantially elastic buffer.

--9. (Five times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part has secured thereto a coupler which holds other support parts parallel to first said support part, each of said other support parts carrying at least two arms, of which at least one is movable, and of which one is provided with one substantially elastic buffer.

--10. (Four times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part has secured thereto a coupler which holds another support part in one direction distinct from that of the first said support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm provided with a one substantially elastic buffer and another coupler.

--11. (Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part is made of several beams with are connected end to end in a row by couplers, each of the outermost beams supporting at least one of said two arms.

--12. (Twice amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part is made of several parallel beams which are distributed so that no said substantially elastic buffer could be aligned with any two of those beams.

--13. (Twice amended) A device according to claim 12, wherein said substantially elastic buffer is split up into several pieces so that no one of

said pieces could be aligned with any two of those beams.

--14. (Twice amended) A device according to claim 13, wherein the arm upon which is secured said substantially elastic buffer is itself split up into several blocks each carried by one or several of said beams.

--15. (Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the connexion between the support part and each of those of said arms which are movable along said support part is made by a loop-shaped gland.

--16. (Amended) The method for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging and which consists in using a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms of which at least one is movable along said support part, at least one of said arms having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a [so large] thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) applying said substantially elastic buffer against some resistant surface,
- b) exerting on the back of said arms a manual thrust,
- c) stopping this thrust so as to lock those of said arms which are movable by tilting against said support part.

--17. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm, said at least one movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said at least one movable arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging, further comprising the steps of:

- d) applying every substantially elastic said buffer against some resistant surface,
- e) exerting on the back of said arms a manual thrust,
- f) stopping this thrust so as to lock each of those movable arms by tilting against their own support part.

--18. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said at least one movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said at least one movable arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a [so large] thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging, further comprising the steps of:

- d) applying every substantially elastic said buffer against some resistant

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surface,

e) exerting on the back of said arms a manual thrust,

f) stopping this thrust so as to lock each of those movable arms by tilting against their own support part.